

## **VSH Governing Body Meeting Minutes**

December 17, 2008, 1:30 pm

Nursing Classroom

**Type of meeting:** Oversight

**Facilitator:** Beth Tanzman, Deputy Commissioner of Mental Health

**Note taker:** Denise McCarty

**Governing Body Members:** Michael Hartman, Commissioner of Mental Health (for partial meeting) Dr. William McMains; Ann Moore; Patrick Flood, (Designee for Secretary Cindy LaWare); Terry Rowe, VSH Executive Director, Dr. Thomas Simpatico, VSH Medical Director

**Attendees:** Jessica Oski, Legal Department (via telephone); Wendy Beinmer, DMH Legal Department,

### **Discussed: Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The October 15<sup>th</sup> and November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed by the Governing Body, minor revisions were made to both sets of minutes. William McMains made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as revised. Ann Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting agenda was revised to include under “Other Business” an update on budget cuts by Beth Tanzman and Governing Body rules by Wendy Beinmer.

### **Discussed: Budget Cuts Update with Beth Tanzman**

There is a second set of rescissions being proposed to the legislature for consideration totaling approximately 19.7 million dollars of additional cuts. These rescissions will be reviewed by the Joint Fiscal Oversight Committee (committee appointed by the legislature). This committee took public comments and testimony from advocates, providers, and family members about the impact of additional proposed budget cuts. The JFOC is expected to make a decision about the cuts on 12/19/08.

Part of those rescissions being proposed include 5.5 million cuts for DMH (Department of Mental Health) and 5.3 million cuts to the Development Services Network that fund designated mental health agencies in the state. Ann Moore asked what does this mean for VSH? Beth indicated that there will be no monetary cuts for VSH or the Futures Project. However, this means that more money will need to be taken from the community side of things to supplement this. BT explained some of the variables that are being discussed by the Joint Fiscal Oversight Committee. Patrick Flood mentioned that in the next two fiscal years, there will be difficult conversations and difficult decisions to make about what will be funded. Terry Rowe mentioned that VSH would like to have the

Dale Yard for patients to use during the treatment mall because it is already enclosed. Wendy asked if there was still money available for BGS to complete the necessary renovations to the treatment mall? Discussion followed.

#### **Discussed: Governing Body Rules with Wendy Beinners**

There was discussion in the legislative committee to discuss if regulation is sufficient or if there needs to be statutory changes to give legal authority to the VSH Governing Body. The DMH legal department has requested that the legislative committee give us a decision. The DMH legislative council will write a memo to ask if the MH Commissioner can oversee the state hospital or if we need a statute to do so? There will be a discussion in January to determine this. WB reviewed some of the options that are available: 1) Make the Governing Body an advisory board. 2) Make public members of the Governing Body non-voting members. 3) Or have no public members, this option doesn't require a legal regulation. CMS requires VSH to have a Governing Body or identify someone that is responsible for overseeing policies and procedures made about the hospital. Discussion followed. WB will be talking to the legislative committee, she expects to hear something in a month perhaps sooner.

#### **Discussed: Executive Director's Report (with Terry Rowe)**

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Board of Health granted VSH a full license to operate. In the past, a conditional, temporary license was granted. Along with the BOH granting a full operating license, to date, The Joint Commission has granted VSH full accreditation, the Department of Justice has had two visits in a row that indicate that we are showing steady, consistent, progress with complying with the settlement agreement. TR acknowledged that Tommie Murray did an outstanding job presenting our progress to the Board of Health. TR also acknowledged Dr. Simpatico's efforts to implement the treatment mall and the positive impact it has made with the patients.

TR reported that Wendy Beinners and Tommie Murray met to discuss the CMS request for reconsideration. Wendy gave a summary of the process: A Request for Reconsideration to CMS was submitted. This is a legal objection to each of their findings either because they were wrong or their findings were not significant enough to impact denying certification. When CMS returns to investigate our request for reconsideration, they will conduct a full survey again. We are also still waiting for the Department of Justice compliance report.

Patient Work Policy – TR reminded the Governing Body that this policy was approved as an interim policy this past spring. TR was not at that meeting but the board wanted to discuss offering patients that work at VSH, minimum wage. This topic is up for discussion again at the leadership level.

SAMSHA visit – TR reported that due to inclement weather, the SAMSHA site visit in December was cancelled. It will be rescheduled for some time in January. This will be an onsite visit to review the baseline assessment of our six core strategy plan.

(End of Executive Director Report)

**Discussed: Medical Director's Report (Dr. Tom Simpatico)**

Tom reported that Dr. David Mooney recently started working at VSH as the attending doctor on Brooks One. Dr. Mooney most recently served as the Medical Director for Northwest Counseling and Support Services in Franklin County.

TS discussed a medical emergency situation that occurred between another hospital and VSH with an involuntary status patient. This recent situation brought into question how do emergency departments at other hospitals statewide make medical determinations? Discussion followed.

TS will have a Veterans and Jail Diversion power point presentation after the policies are reviewed and approved.

(End of Medical Director's Report)

**Discussed: Quality Assurance Report (by Tommie Murray)**

NOTE: There was no Quality Assurance Report.

**Other Business: Policy approval with Jessica Oski**

Jessica Oski reminded the Governing Body members that the Policy Committee advises the Governing Body when policies are made interim. Today we are asking for final approval of the following interim policies that were presented at the November meeting:

The policies were briefly discussed.

- **Interim Respiratory Services Policy** - Minor revisions were suggested to the Respiratory Services Policy. Ann Moore motioned to accept the Respiratory Services Policy with the suggested revisions. Michael Hartman seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Interim Medical Records Policy** – Minor revisions were suggested. WM motioned to accept the Medical Records Policy with minor changes. Patrick Flood seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Interim Organ and Tissue Donation Policy** – Questions about this policy were asked by the Governing Body members. Discussion followed. WM motioned to accept the Organ and Tissue Donation Policy as presented. Ann Moore seconded the motion, all were in favor, the motion passed unanimously.
- **Grievance and Appeal Policy** is currently interim. JO reported that we are still getting public feedback about this policy. This policy will be brought back in January or February with some substantive changes for further review and approval from the Governing Body.

Ann Moore commented that the current treatment mall changes have greatly improved since her son's last two admissions at VSH. The therapeutic activities and privilege levels have had huge improvements in these areas. She also expressed her concerns about access to information for family members of patients that are at VSH. The information on the website needs to be improved as well as communications with family members. The NAMI Family Resource Guidebook is a useful tool for family members and should be distributed more consistently to them.

**SAMSHA Veterans Jail Diversion Initiative Presentation** – Dr. Simpatico presented a power point presentation to the Governing Body. The SAMSHA Veterans Jail Diversion Initiative will be kicked off starting in January 2009 then is funded for the next 5 years. The objective at the end of the 5 year time frame is to have fundamental changes in the statewide system of care.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be on January 21st at 1:30 pm in the Nursing Classroom.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise McCarty  
Minute Taker